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basi-sphenoid yet remains open, while it appears to be closed in the New York skull. The specimen is about the same size as the latter, its length being $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In addition to the two localities indicated, the remains of this most gigantic of all rodents, recent and extinct, have been found in New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

September 24th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Sixteen members present.

Chas. H. Thomas, M. D., and A. G. Hincle, M. D., were elected members, and Rev. Alphonso Wood, Brooklyn, N. Y., was elected a correspondent.

On favorable report of the respective committees, the following were ordered to be published:

Additional Note on Dioicous forms of VITIS VINIFERA, L.

BY THOMAS MEEHAN.

On page 42 of the Proceedings of the Academy, I offered a few observations tending to show that the idea of De Candolle (since adopted by others), that Dioicousism was a peculiar attribute of the American species of *Vitis* and Hermaphroditism of the European was an error, and one which, as it had been adopted as a fact to divide the genus, ought to be corrected; and further, I suggested that the seedless grapes of Europe (currants) were probably pistillate forms. This has produced two letters from Dr. George Engelman, of so much interest that, with his knowledge, I make the following extracts:

"It is a well known fact that *Vitis vinifera*, when running wild, as it occurs in different localities on the banks of the Rhine, becomes polygamous; and I have specimens of male plants in my herbarium. The berries are small, acerb, and dark bluish-black.

The same, I have learnt from Prof. Parlatore, of Florence, grows in the swampy region near Leghorn, and is as large a plant there as our largest *V. cordifolia* (or *viparia*),—a hundred feet high, and (stem) six or eight inches in diameter,—and is there yet called "Labrusca" by the natives,—the ancient name used also by Virgil and Pliny, showing the same plant to be wild (native or naturalized?) at their time. This is also said by Prof. Parlatore to be dioicous, or rather polygamous.

The number of seeds does not depend on the fertility of the plant, but on the size of the berry; thus our small berries, *V. cordifolia* (*viparia*), bear usually one or two seeds, rarely (if ever) more.

The question with me is whether the plant is ever properly dioicous? I have never found female plants. All that I could examine were either male or hermaphrodite, though the hermaphrodite may not be absolutely *perfect*,—that is, though the pollen is perfect, it may require the pollen of another (male or hermaphrodite) plant to fertilize it.

Has any one seen purely female plants?

Your hypothesis of the seedless currants I cannot share. If not impregnated, the fruit will come to nothing; but there are seedless varieties of different plants you know."

In another letter, in reply to some suggestions of mine, Dr. Engelman adds: "I was too hasty in saying that a non-fertilized fruit would not ripen. Those with a fleshy calyx (epigynous) often do, without producing seeds; but of grapes I would doubt it. And, *moreover*, I do not know—and would like botanists to look to it—whether *female* flowers are found in *Vitis*! I find only complete, or male plants,—have never seen a purely female. If no one has, will they look out next season?"

[Sept.